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Message Text

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60
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
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U.S. MISSION NATO 5765

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 0314

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, WB. GE
SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 18 KUNZE-MITDANK TALKS

1. AS REPORTED IN REFERENCED AIRGRAMS, THE GDR, MORE AND MORE, IS USING MEETINGS BETWEEN SENAT AND GDR VISITS ARRANGEMENT COMMISSIONERS, KUNZE AND MITDANK, AS FORUM FOR VARIETY OF PROTESTS OR COMMENTS ABOUT POLITICAL MATTERS IN WEST BERLIN. THIS TREND PERSISTED AT FEBRUARY 18 MEETING, AT WHICH MITDANK PROTESTED AGAINST RECENT MEETING OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN BERLIN, STATEMENTS MADE BY GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ DURING VISIT TO ISRAEL, AND MEETING OF INNER-GERMAN BUNDESTAG COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN BERLIN THIS WEEK. SENAT COMMISSIONERS KUNZE REJECTED THESE PROTESTS AS INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL WEST BERLIN MATTERS AND ATTEMPTED TO GET MITDANK TO RETURN TO PROBLEMS WITH VISITS ARRANGEMENT SUCH AS DOUBLING OF MINIMUM CURRENCY-EXCHANGE REQUIREMENTS BY GDR.

2. SENAT, WHICH IN PAST HAS FOR MOST PART KEPT DETAILS
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OF KUNZE-MITDANK MEETINGS OUT OF PRESS, DECIDED TO GO

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PUBLIC AND EXPOSE GDR TACTICS OF USING MEETING FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES UNRELATED TO PROBLEMS DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH VISITS ARRANGEMENT. IN ADDITION TO LEAKING DETAILS OF SESSION TO PRESS, GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ FEBRUARY 19 ISSUED STRONG STATEMENT MAKING THREE MAJOR POINTS:

(1) MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS PROVIDED FOR UNDER VISITS ARRANGEMENT IS NOT FORUM FOR POLITICAL CONTACT BETWEEN BERLIN (WEST) AND GDRG GOVERNMENT;

(2) WHENEVER GDR COMMISSIONER ATTEMPTS TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS UNRELATED TO VISITS ARRANGEMENT, SENAT COMMISSIONER IS INSTRUCTED TO RETURN DISCUSSION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO SUBJECTS DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH VISITS ARRANGEMENT;

(3) GOVERNING MAYOR NOT ONLY REJECTS MIXING OF GDR IN INTERNAL WEST BERLIN MATTERS BUT HIS FUTURE STATEMENTS WILL NOT BE INFLUENCED BY WHAT GDR LEADERSHIP THINKS OR BELIEVES TO BE RIGHT.

3. PRESS HAS REPORTED ALLIED CIRCLES AS COMPLAINING THAT KUNZE AND MITDANK HAVE TAKEN UP MATTERS OUTSIDE THEIR COMPETENCE, BUT U.S. MISSION (IN CHAIR) HAS DENIED SUCH STATEMENT WAS MADE, NOTING MATTER IS ESSENTIALLY SENAT'S CONCERN. OFF-THE-RECORD, WE HAVE INDICATED THAT WE HAVE NOT CRITICIZED THE SENAT IN ANY WAY.KLEIN

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